

APR 04 2007

PAGE 8/9 * RCVD AT 4/4/2007 2:30:00 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFAXRF-3/12 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:908 518 7795 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-00

Serial No.: 10/688,224
Examiner: Catherine S. Williams
Group Art Unit: 3763

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 3-7 and 9-33 are presently pending. Claims 4 and 18-28 were previously withdrawn as belonging to a non-elected species. The Examiner has reinstated claim 4 but has withdrawn claim 13 as not containing all of the limitations of an allowable claim. Thus, claims 13 and 18-28 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicant has cancelled claims 12, 14, and 31 and has amended claim 15 to place it in independent format. Applicant states that there is no issue of new matter.

REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges that the Examiner states that claims 3-7, 9-11, 17, 29, 30, 32, and 33 are allowable. Claims 15-16 are objected to being dependent upon a rejected base claim (12) but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In response, Applicant has cancelled claim 12 and rewritten claim 15 as an independent claim that includes all of the limitations of cancelled claim 12 and intervening claim 14. Claim 16 depends upon claim 15. Applicant respectfully states that the objection has been obviated and thus, these claims are in condition for allowance. Thus, with this amendment, claims 3-7, 9-11, 15-17, 29, 30, 32, and 33 are allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 12 and 31 as being anticipated by PCT Pub. No. WO 00/74743 (Green et al).

In response, Applicant has cancelled claims 12 and 31, rendering the rejection moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 14 as being unpatentable over Green et al. in light of Trerotola (U.S. Pub. No. 2005/0055012).

In response, Applicant has cancelled claim 14, rendering the rejection moot.

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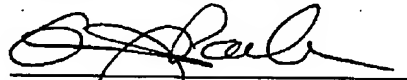
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700, ext. 7 in order to resolve any outstanding issues. The Office is authorized to charge any fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

FEES

The Office is authorized to charge any fees required, to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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